



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION


ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

December 3, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Division Engineers

FROM: R. L. Keeter, Jr., PE 
Chief Engineer

SUBJECT: Equipment Idling Guidelines – Project Special Provision

As detailed in a separate memorandum dated December 3, 2020, anti-idling guidelines have been developed that apply to vehicles and equipment being operated by Department and consultant staff. As this memorandum indicates, similar requirements will apply to contractor employees and equipment that are engaged in work on construction and maintenance contracts.

Attached is the new Special Provision titled *Equipment Idling Guidelines*. This Special Provision shall be included in all contracts with let dates after December 31, 2020.

Questions should be directed to Boyd Tharrington, PE in the Construction Unit.

RLK/ebt

Cc: Chris Peoples, PE
Louis Mitchell, PE
Lamar Sylvester, PE
Chris Werner, PE
Boyd Tharrington, PE
Ron Davenport, PE
Division Construction Engineers
CAPA
AGC

EQUIPMENT IDLING GUIDELINES:

(1-19-21)

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SP01 R096

Exercise reduced fuel consumption and reduced equipment emissions during the construction of all work associated with this contract. Employees engaged in the construction of this project should turn off vehicles when stopped for more than thirty (30) minutes and off-highway equipment should idle no longer than fifteen (15) consecutive minutes.

These guidelines for turning off vehicles and equipment when idling do not apply to:

1. Idling when queuing.
2. Idling to verify the vehicle is in safe operating condition.
3. Idling for testing, servicing, repairing or diagnostic purposes.
4. Idling necessary to accomplish work for which the vehicle was designed (such as operating a crane, mixing concrete, etc.).
5. Idling required to bring the machine system to operating temperature.
6. Emergency vehicles, utility company, construction, and maintenance vehicles where the engines must run to perform needed work.
7. Idling to ensure safe operation of the vehicle.
8. Idling when the propulsion engine is providing auxiliary power for other than heating or air conditioning. (such as hydraulic systems for pavers)
9. When specific traffic, safety, or emergency situations arise.
10. If the ambient temperature is less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Limited idling to provide for the safety of vehicle occupants (e.g. to run the heater).
11. If the ambient temperature is greater than 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Limited idling to provide for the safety of vehicle occupants of off-highway equipment (e.g. to run the air conditioning) no more than 30 minutes.
12. Diesel powered vehicles may idle for up to 30 minutes to minimize restart problems.

Any vehicle, truck, or equipment in which the primary source of fuel is natural gas or electricity is exempt from the idling limitations set forth in this special provision.